



Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Director
Patrick Schreiber, Assistant Director



Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2013 - 12:30 pm

Joshua Conference Room
Sixth Floor
Government Center
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Present:

Commissioner Susan Brager
Commissioner Lawrence Weekly
Judge Robert Teuton
Judge William Voy

Clark County Management

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager
Catherine Jorgenson, Civil District Attorney
Brigid Duffy, Deputy District Attorney

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John M. Martin, Director
Patrick Schreiber, Assistant Director
Carol McWaters, Executive Assistant

Department of Family Services

Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director
Kristi Jourdan, Communications

Guests:

Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Chief Operations Officer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brager with a quorum present.

I. Review & Approve the minutes of the August 1, 2013 meeting.

The minutes were corrected to reflect Commissioner Brager as the Chairman and Judge Sullivan as the Vice Chair.

II. Approve the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as written.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STEVE SISOLAK, Chairman • LARRY BROWN, Vice Chairman
SUSAN BRAGER • TOM COLLINS • CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI • MARY BETH SCOW • LAWRENCE WEEKLY
DONALD G. BURNETTE, County Manager

IV. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Direct Staff Accordingly.

John Martin, Director of DJJS, discussed the recent Juvenile Detention Assistant recruitment which was open for half a day before being closed with a maximum of 250 applications being entered. The Child & Youth Technician recruitment is in the process with a maximum of 250 applications. The Detention Manager recruitment had 120 applications prior to being screened down to 36, which was then narrowed down to 16 for interview.

Mr. Wells, Assistant County Manager, discussed the decision to include an additional five (5) college degrees as appropriate for a Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO). The Department is seeking applicants that have more rehabilitation experience instead of concentrating solely on law enforcement.

The Department recently hired JPOs, who started their first day of work by attending the Peace Officers Standards Academy (POST). Upon graduation and passing the State Certification test, they will begin working in juvenile detention.

Mr. Martin discussed the recent audit of detention by the Legislative Counsel Bureau. The Department received high marks, including stating that the detention center is one of the best in the State. Their criticism was that the department had not completed background checks on all employees as stipulated in the 2011 legislative session. This is being addressed and all staff will have complied by the beginning of 2014.

The Department will be requesting an additional twelve (12) JPOs in the next budget cycle. The details around this request will be outlined at the February 6, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Brager reiterated the need to state what each Department needs in the future so that the Board can assist when the 2014/2015 budget decisions are being made.

Mr. Martin discussed the recent trip, paid for by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, to learn about the JANUS Program in Portland Oregon. In this program, they are able to coordinate with the various organizations to solicit help for needy youth and families. Multnomah County is the primary funding source for the Janus Program with a few outside agency grants supplementing the costs. Mr. Wells discussed another contingency of people traveling to Portland to research the funding and details of setting up similar assistance in Clark County.

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly stated that once all interested parties visit the Janus Program in Portland Oregon, the decisions surrounding the plans for a similar project in Las Vegas need to take into account that Portland is very interested in the education of their youth. In other states the drop-out rate is high in the senior year. In Clark County the drop-out rate is starting in the seventh & eighth grades.

Commissioner Brager discussed the need to spend more of the Commission's time on issues relating to youth and families. Mr. Martin commented that at the Janus Program there is an abundance of resources available to the 24 hour crisis center. Both DJJS and DFS would be able to use the drop-in center, for abuse and neglect, homeless, runaways and low level criminal offenses. In Las Vegas the commitment among some of the people is remarkable. He mentioned Mr. Mujahid Ramadan, Pastor Troy Martinez and a good example is Dr. Tiffany Tyler, from Nevada Partners here today that are always seeking ways to improve the quality of life of our youth.

V. Receive a report from the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mr. Martin, in the absence of the CAC Chairman, discussed the committee's visit to the Red Rock Academy (formerly Summit View).

VI. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS) and Direct Staff Accordingly

Director Lisa Ruiz-Lee discussed the Federal Grant Application in partnership with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and other major community partners aimed at reducing homelessness for at-risk youth including current and former foster youth. The grant provides DFS and partners approximately \$700,000 over a two year period to build a comprehensive plan for programming to meet the needs of these youth.

The National Adoption Month Celebration will be on Thursday, November 21, at 8:00 AM at the gymnasium adjacent to Child Haven. The department will finalize 90 adoptions that day.

DFS hosted a community-wide summit "Building Connections Child Welfare Summit" that nearly 150 child welfare partners attended. The focus was to help educate our partners about the department's two major initiatives (the Safety Initiative and Permanency System and the Quality Parenting Initiative) and to solicit their feedback and ongoing participation.

Commissioner Brager asked Directors Ruiz-Lee and Martin to compile a wish list for them to propose to the rest of the Commissioners for the upcoming budget hearings in 2014. Ms. Brager would like the Directors to present this information at the February 6, 2014 meeting.

Judge Voy discussed the Memorandum of Understanding the District Attorney's office is creating for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program.

VII. Receive the DFS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report

No report at this time.

VIII. Public Comments

Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, stated she was pleased to hear the committee are working towards a vision on how to shift the emphasis to families and youth and how best to address their important issues.

IX. Schedule next meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2014 at 12:30 PM in the Joshua Conference Room. Items for the agenda will include:

- A. DJJS & DFS Directors' Reports
- B. DJJS & DFS Wish List for 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.